1/26/70

Dear Gris,

I was away all day today, which puts me farthur behind than ever, and there is a full evening of mail if I answer what came today even perfucntorily. Hence I'll respond to your letter of the 22nd less fully than I'd like.

Without candor there is neither freindship, trust nor intellectual honesty. So, please understand that in my bluntness I intend nothing else.

Vince: he believes what he told you. He also knows it to be false. I will never recover in health of peace of mind what his paranoia cost me, and it diminished the effectiveness of by far the most important record we have made. He is largely responsible for the bad position Garrison took. I know. I was in on all of it and was responsible for Vince's being in on it, which is too long a story to go into now. Had it not beeen essential, and had it been possible for me to accomplish the immediate and primary objective any other way I would have. By the time he raised the question of forgeries there was no possibility for I had a reading of X-rays that, had they been forgeries, nonetheless destroyed the entire WR. He knew this. Vince has a great problem. He has abdicated, and the only way he can justify himself is for everyone else to fail. He really has become paranoid on this. It is no figure of speech. Anticipating it I arranged a conference hookup on a conversation with Wecht, who supported me 100%, for I'd sent him the proofs in advance. I have this taped. Someday it will be an important record. Vince does nothing to help, will not - and he is in a position to afford to help as others cannot. He can do so financially and doesn't help any of the few of us who are continuing to work, not one of whom can afford it, not even with an occasional contribution to pay for Archives xeroxes. What kind of a fine guy he has been is irrelevant, as is his decent principles. I tell it as it is. Much the same is true of Penn, who even owes me money and will not pay it, on the self-justification I am some kind of agent. And you cannot know how urgently I need that relatively small sum. To the degree possible I leave these people alone. Penn does not even answer a polite letter, unless he has a insult that has momentary appeal to him. I can say none of this publicly, and I rarely do in private. But, believe me or not, you will be in a position to evaluate....Penn has been so very wrong on so many thing, so irresponsible, with the best of intentions. It is a great tragedy, for he is a very decent man with the noblest purposes....When you read POST MORTEM III, which is the basis of the Washington trial and was done before it, you will better understand how utterly and obviously wrong Vince was and is-and knew, for he saw all of it-right here, in the presence of others.

Of really worthwhile work on the case, I know of only two others, Hoch and Schoener, both of whom have been slowed donw by their school needs. Hoch is helped mightily by a young man who wants anonymity. The others are engaged in campaigns of vilification, thievery and mutual promotions, but they have come up with nothing of which I know. I understand the conservative group in Dallas has done good things also. I have slight contact with them.

I think we are past the point where spreading occasional bits of information accomplishes constructive objectives. From my own point of view, that time is not as well spent as in research and writing. I can do only so much. I have made no effort to get air time, for example, since the Shaw decision. We must let the bad things, of which that and what preceeded are major, cool off, so that we can

be credited. I have made no speeches without decent hornoraria. I cannot. My debt is monumental and I am flat. I cannot subsidize the curiosity of those decent people who are not motivated to the point of making meaningful contributions to this work. I would like to. But the financial and other toll, not the least of which is health precludes it. Yesterday I blacked out, suffering only minor injury, and I have been the victim of anxiety for some time. Butmy work continues, my output is only slightly diminished, and I am still forcing out evidence we have been denied. Another proof in today's mail. I cannot go into this, so please donot ask. Some of it is more important than anything you have seen. This is where what effort I can exert must be applied.

Furthermore, I am not interested in and am really opposed to the distribution of my completed work until it can be printed. At the risk of sounding paranoid myself, I tell you two reasons: the thievery on our own side is simply incredible, those who come up with nothing taking what is not theirs and too often misusing it. Secondly, it too often gets into the wrong hands and is used counter productively. I have made a few xerox copies available to those I know I can trust. But this I mean to include not only personal integrity, but also to keep the word I ask, that no use, direct or indirect, be made of it. In the end, when I have completed the work upon which I am engaged, and you have had a chacne to grasp its depth and breadth, its magnitude and the remaining possibilities, I think you may be able to understand it. Until then, it is eminimum requirement of the very few cases where I do let others have this. The prices range from $25.00 for both parts of POST MORTEM (meaning each). I have not made copies of COUP D'ETAT available to any who have not helped with it, but there I'd have to get about $35, and for the second part, without appendix, about $45. That entire work, exclusive of appendix, is over a third of a million words.

There is important info in the Miami tapes. All I know of that Penn has published is the Barry stories. Penn, owing me money, cut me off his mailing list for non--payments of subscription, and that is just as good, for the last I saw was wrose than a waste of time. More, I have gotten much of what relates to ~~these~~ this tape, as well as its complete text. That is in COUP I. I cannot take time to tell you and I cannot permit its use. One of the reasons for this is that I hope to at some point be able to get the book printed, and it is against my interest (and I suggest that of all of us) for any minor, piecemeal use, which would take the edge off and could not be in proper context. Communicating with the persuaded accomplishes nothing at this point. Or with those who will do nothing with their knowledge.

Hasty comment on "The Shape of Things to Come", which I read for the first time while making it: Par 3, "administrations", plural. McCarthy-end quote. Comment-he also will not interest himself. Par 4: your written comment is, in my opinion correct. I know of nothing to support Garrison on this. Next-Barry is not alone in reprirting this, and he added nothing to what the police released. He also refused to carry it further for me when I asked him to. The end of the quote os correct, but that man, now (natural causes) dead, was more than a Klansman. Next-for your information only, both FBI and SS withheld from WC. (And Miami is not the only case I have) Next- Russell goes further-while believing Oswald the shooter, he also believes there was a conspiracy. Next, tragically, Garrison "found" it is right-he came up with nothing of his own on this, only loose talk. (FYI.)...By and large, it is good, and it is the right context (not quite the same as the one in which I put it).

Before ending, for I'fe no time, I make this vueful comment, as a man whose entire life has been non-violent: non-violence is effective only against men of decency and principle. Where there is no morality it has no effect anymore.

Sorry I've no time to correct typose. Please understand I am speaking straightforwardly, for I think anything else is iunfaithful and no favor. If you do not now credit these opinions, you eventually will.

Best to you all,